



## JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL

March 3, 2022

Written Testimony of THE JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL, JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER HARTFORD

Before the Joint Public Safety and Security Committee in support of SB 217, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A HATE CRIMES INVESTIGATIVE UNIT WITHIN THE DIVISION OF STATE POLICE AND REQUIRING DEVELOPMENT OF A REPORTING SYSTEM, BEST PRACTICES AND A MODEL INVESTIGATION POLICY FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT UNITS REGARDING HATE CRIMES.

Dear Members of the Joint Public Safety and Security Committee,

On behalf of the Jewish Community of Greater Hartford, the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford goes on record in support of establishing a hate crimes investigative unit and requiring the development of a reporting system, best practices and a model investigation policy for law enforcement unit regarding hate crimes.

The Jewish Community Relations Council educates and mobilizes the Jewish community on issues of social justice, combats hate, and advocates for public policy consistent with Jewish values. One of the core tenets of Judaism is *tikkun olam*, repairing the world. In that vein, our legislative priorities focus on issues such as protecting our most vulnerable populations, committing to an anti-hate culture, and fostering economic growth. Establishing a hate crimes investigative unit within the state police and requiring the development of a reporting system and best practices would help the state better address hate crimes and commit to an anti-hate culture.

Hate crimes are systematically underreported throughout the country or not identified or recorded as hate crimes. Additional training for law enforcement officers and centralizing hate crimes reporting would help law enforcements officers more effectively identify, address and report hate crimes and other incidences of hate in Connecticut and allow for appropriate intervention. By improving the reporting, investigation, and prosecution of hate crimes, this legislation would help to ensure the safety of individuals and communities threatened by hate.

Thank you for your consideration. You are welcome to contact us with any questions by contacting Alana Butler, Director of JCRC, at [abutler@jewishhartford.org](mailto:abutler@jewishhartford.org) or 860-727-6152.

SINCERELY,

GARY S. STARR, CHAIR, JCRC, JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER HARTFORD

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